



Educational Leadership Opportunity

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Canisius High School

Buffalo, NY

Founded 156 years ago, Canisius High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, independent, college-preparatory day school in Buffalo that educates young men of all faiths and diverse backgrounds in grades 9-12 from across Western New York and Canada.

The Athletic Director oversees the entire interscholastic athletic program of Canisius High School and reports to the principal. The AD promotes a vision for athletics that is consistent with Canisius High School's mission and supports the overall experience and formation of the student-athlete.

For a position to begin in August 2026, Canisius is seeking an experienced and talented educational and athletic leader who is inspired by the school's mission and its students, and who is eager to further enhance its legacy of excellence in the formation of young men.

Canisius High School at a glance

Mission

Founded in 1870, Canisius High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, independent, college-preparatory school serving young men of diverse backgrounds from throughout Western New York and Canada. Canisius challenges its students to strive for excellence as critical thinkers and effective communicators who are open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to justice.



Canisius promotes the development of students through a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum firmly rooted in the Jesuit tradition of faith, scholarship and service.

Faithful to St. Ignatius Loyola's desire to provide care and concern for the whole person, Canisius affords each member of the school community the opportunity to develop individual talents for the service of others and the greater glory of God.

Facts and Figures

Location: 1180 Delaware Ave., Buffalo NY 14209

Colors: Navy blue, gold

Student-teacher ratio: 12-1

Founded: 1870

Nickname: Crusaders

Namesake: The school is named after St. Peter Canisius, S.J. (1521-1597).

Average enrollment: 600-700 students

Tuition: \$18,170

Affiliation: Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Canisius High School is part of a network of 62 Jesuit high schools and 27 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. Students from all faiths are welcome.

Tuition assistance awarded: Awarded to 75% of the student body.

Staff: 92

Accreditations & memberships:

Regents of the University of the State of New York, New York State Department of Education, New York State Association of Independent Schools, Middle States Association of College and Secondary Schools, Jesuit Schools Network, and the National Catholic Education Association.



Introduction

Location and Facilities

Canisius, with its iconic “Blue Doors,” is located in the heart of Buffalo at 1180 Delaware Avenue. The campus lies just north of the Delaware Avenue Historic District, adjacent to the vibrant Elmwood Village and south of Frederick Law Olmsted’s Delaware Park.

The walk across the campus provides a combination of historic and modern architecture that is unmatched in the region.

The school’s main entrance, offices, chapel and some classrooms are housed in the Koessler Academic Center, a 100-year-old mansion flanked by the striking Bernard J. Kennedy ’49 Field House, which seats up to 1,000 and has been one of the top high school indoor athletic facilities in the region since its opening in 2009.

Between those two structures is Higgins Hall, a lobby featuring marble staircases and promenades, and Scaccia Auditorium with its 10 columns that support a beautiful cornice 50 feet up (pictured at right).

The Madden Center for Global Learning, which opened in 2024, is next to the Koessler Academic Center and is a dynamic space which features a giant interactive videoconference screen.

The Montante Academic Hall is a state-of-the-art math and science center adjacent to the Beecher Academic Wing.

The 13,000-square-foot Center for the Arts is located in a separate mansion next to the school and opened in 2018.



The Robert J. Stransky Memorial Athletic Complex includes Koessler Field's modern athletic turf that is the home for football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and track and field, as well as Coppola Family Field, part of a state-of-the-art, two-diamond home for our baseball program which opened in 2024.

Canisius also has a makerspace lab, four computer centers, a digital media arts lab, a renovated weight room, a swimming pool, an additional gymnasium and an additional athletic field.

The Student Body

Demand for the Canisius experience is high. The school's enrollment has been between 600 and 700 in recent years.

Students are drawn from throughout the Western New York area, from the city of Buffalo to surrounding Erie County suburbs as well as some rural areas and Canada. Canisius draws students from 120 different (private and public) schools and 44 different school districts. Canisius also currently has students from China, Korea and Germany. Nearly 30% of the student body are people of color.



In support of its commitment to economic diversity, Canisius provides tuition assistance to more than 75% of the student body.

College Matriculation

Canisius provides a rigorous college preparatory education to an academically diverse, motivated student body.

The average SAT score for the Class of 2025 was 1156, significantly higher than both the New York State (1045) and national (1029) averages. CHS scores are 10.6% higher than NYS and 12.3% higher than the USA averages.

The Class of 2025 saw 99% of students go on to attend college, with 54% going to a private university and 25% attending a Jesuit institution. More than \$30 million in academic scholarship offers were earned by the Class of 2025.

Consistent with the Jesuit philosophy of using your talents in the service of others, Canisius' career planning model has school counselors help students to first identify their strengths, abilities and interests, and then find matching college programs to help develop these skills to prepare them for a career in service of others.



The Classes of 2024, 2025 and 2026 attended colleges that include:

American University
 Arizona State University
 Ave Maria University
 Belmont University
 Boston College
 Boston University
 Bowling Green State Univ.
 Brandeis University
 Brown University
 Canisius University
 Case Western Reserve Univ.
 Clarkson University
 Clemson University
 Coastal Carolina University
 Colgate University
 College of Charleston
 College of the Holy Cross
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Dartmouth College
 Drexel University
 Duquesne University
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U.
 Fairfield University
 Florida Atlantic University
 Fordham University
 George Washington University
 Georgetown University
 Georgia Institute of Technology

Hamilton College
 Harvard University
 High Point University
 Howard University
 Indiana University
 Ithaca College
 John Carroll University
 Kent State University
 Le Moyne College
 Louisiana State University
 Loyola Marymount University
 Loyola University, Chicago
 Loyola University, Maryland
 Marist University
 Marquette University
 Mercyhurst University
 Miami University, Ohio
 Michigan State University
 Niagara University
 Ohio University
 Ohio State University
 Palm Beach Atlantic Univ.
 Pennsylvania State University
 Princeton University
 Purdue University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.
 Rochester Inst. of Technology
 Sacred Heart University
 Saint Bonaventure University

Saint Joseph's University
 San Diego State University
 Santa Clara University
 Springfield College
 SUNY Binghamton
 SUNY Buffalo (UB)
 University of Alabama
 Univ. of California, Berkeley
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 University of Dayton
 University of Denver
 University of Florida
 University of Illinois
 University of Maryland
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Oregon
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Richmond
 University of Rochester
 Univ. of Southern California
 University of Toronto
 University of Virginia
 Vanderbilt University
 Villanova University
 Virginia Tech University
 Williams College
 Xavier University

Highlights of the Educational Program

As a Jesuit institution, Canisius believes in a long tradition rooted in the teachings of St. Ignatius Loyola: That everything God has created is worthy of our study and care.

Canisius students and faculty are committed to academic excellence in the classroom as part of a well-rounded education that includes athletics and co-curricular activities (including more than 50 clubs) as well as Christian service through our campus ministry programs.

Canisius offers 22 Advanced Placement as well as honors courses, with those students who have distinguished themselves placed in the Ignatian Scholars program.

Three foreign languages are offered (Latin, French, Spanish). For over a decade, the school has had a one-to-one iPad program as technology has augmented Canisius' curriculum and coursework.



The Canisius Classes of 2025 and 2026 included:

- 2 National Merit Scholarship Finalists
- 2 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists
- 12 National Merit Commended Students
- 38 National College Board Recognition Scholars
- 47 AP Scholars
- 26 AP Scholars with Honor
- 39 AP Scholars with Distinction

Spiritual Life

Another aspect of a Canisius education that sets it apart from other schools is the spiritual and personal formation offered to all students.

The campus ministry department at Canisius provides transformative opportunities for each student to be engaged socially, challenged intellectually, go deeper interiorly, and encounter the living God personally.

Canisius campus ministry programs fall under three main categories:

Liturgies – The school day at Canisius begins in prayer; daily Mass is offered in the school chapel; Canisius celebrates Holy Days of Obligation and other occasions with school-wide liturgies in Scaccia Auditorium during which students participate in several ways.

Retreats – CHS Campus Ministry invites students to go deeper in their personal encounter with God through a spiritual retreat program that is offered to students at no cost.

Retreats are offered for every class year.

Upperclassmen have opportunities to lead retreats as organizers, leaders, speakers and role models.



Because of deep spiritual and communal conversations, personal introspection, and stories of faith and life experience shared by peers and upperclassmen, retreats are some of the most transformative and memorable experiences for CHS students. Students of all faiths and backgrounds enjoy the retreats.

Service – Canisius students are expected to volunteer at least 100 hours of service over the course of their four years. A capstone of the Canisius service experience happens during junior year when students are invited to participate in service immersion trips away from school, sometimes in other countries.



House System

Canisius began its House System in 2019 guided by the Jesuit hallmark of *cura personalis* – care for the whole person. The program, based on similar models used around the world for centuries, was pioneered by Canisius in Western New York.

The Canisius student body is comprised of six houses, with students from all class years included within a house, and students remaining part of the same house for his entire Canisius experience.

Houses can gain points for academic achievement, participation in co-curricular activities, athletic teams and the quarterly “House Games,” which see friendly competition in anything from traditional sports to watermelon relay races and grilled-cheese cook-offs. Points are put toward a year-long competition for the House Cup. Along the way, the smaller communities within the larger school community help students build stronger bonds and connections between students and faculty and within all four grades.

There are also great leadership opportunities for students within all six houses, which are named for prominent Jesuits – Arrupe, Campion, Gonzaga, Jogues, Loyola and Xavier.



Fine Arts

The historically strong Canisius arts program, which features 20 credit-bearing courses, is now housed in one of the region's finest such facilities, the 13,000-square-foot Center for the Arts, which opened in 2018.

The center features dedicated rehearsal spaces for music ensembles, individual practice spaces for student-musicians, and classrooms for architecture, ceramics, sculpture and art. The first floor also serves as gallery space for art exhibits.

Student instrumentalists, singers and actors participate in numerous performances throughout each school year, including plays, musicals, concerts as well as contributions to the music ministry at school Masses.

Athletics

Sports and the student-athlete experience are an important and robust part of Canisius High School's culture, with about 60% of students participating in athletics and the student body providing terrific spectator support at contests that are major events for our CHS community.

Canisius has 34 teams participating in 19 sports. Those many teams have collected many championships in recent years. Canisius has won 20 of the last 22 Supremacy Cups, awarded to the top overall athletic program in Western New York's excellent Monsignor Martin Athletic Association.



Over the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, CHS won league championships in football, soccer, golf, hockey, bowling, swimming (for the 24th straight year), basketball, lacrosse, tennis and baseball. This past year saw state championships in hockey, swimming, bowling, sailing and rowing.

The rowing program earns national titles on an annual basis while Canisius graduates have regularly been on NFL rosters in recent decades (including three in the 2021 season).

Twenty-four members of the Class of 2026 made commitments to play sports at the college level – that's 15% of the senior class (the national average is about 6%). CHS has maintained an annual rate of about 12% in this area for the last two decades.

The Position: Director of Athletics

The Director of Athletics oversees the entire interscholastic athletic program of Canisius High School.

The AD promotes a vision for athletics that is consistent with Canisius High School's mission and supports the overall experience and formation of the student-athlete.

The AD is responsible for the development, management, coordination and supervision of a competitive athletics program with more than 100 coaches and about 400 student-athletes; providing leadership, strategic planning and policy development to maximize athletic resources, facilities and personnel.

The Director of Athletics reports to the principal.

The Assistant Athletic Director reports to the Athletic Director and assists the AD with a variety of responsibilities.

We offer a competitive salary (commensurate with experience in a range of \$75,000 to \$100,000) as well as a comprehensive benefits package.

Key responsibilities include:

- Hire, supervise, manage and evaluate coaches, athletic department staff and athletic training staff in accordance with Canisius High School's expectations.
- Forecast the financial needs of the athletic department and responsibly administer the approved annual operating budget.
- Work with the facilities department regarding the scheduling, maintenance, security and use of all athletic facilities, including the Bernard J. Kennedy '49 Field House, Tripi Field, weight room, pool and gym at 1180 Delaware Ave. as well as the Robert J. Stransky Memorial Athletic Complex on Clinton Street, which includes Koessler Field's multi-sport athletic turf and a two-field baseball facility that includes Coppola Family Field.
- Oversee and coordinate logistics including scheduling, transportation, game management of all athletic contests and practices, including participation in the outstanding Monsignor Martin Athletic Association and New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association as well as other athletic organizations.

- Work with and support the academic administration on student health and success.
- Collaborate with all CHS departments, including:
 - Admissions (including coaches clinics, summer camps, working with coaches to answer prospective students' questions)
 - Advancement (including coordination of fundraising activities for CHS, the athletic department, and individual teams)
 - Alumni Relations (including enhancing and assisting with key alumni athletic events and initiatives)
- Work with the Department of Communications to organize the website canisiussports.com, [@canisiushssports](https://www.instagram.com/canisiushssports) social media accounts and team social media accounts.
- Be a visible and accessible representative of CHS Athletics to our entire community as well as throughout Western New York, including via the use of social media.
- Support and collaborate with counselors, coaches, athletes and families in the college recruiting process.
- Implement and enforce health and safety protocols and emergency plans for all athletic venues.
- Perform duties and fulfill responsibilities that are proper to the Director of Athletics.
- Due to the breadth and depth of responsibilities assigned to the Athletic Director, the Athletic Director does not serve as a coach.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Who Should Apply: Qualities and Qualifications

An ideal candidate will offer most or all of the following:

Qualifications and experiences

- Bachelor's degree required; advanced degree preferred.
- Successful professional experience in the administration of an intercollegiate or high-performing high school athletic program.
- Commitment to pursuing excellence and maintaining the high standards of competition and conduct that CHS Athletics has established over the past two decades.
- Experience in teaching, coaching and/or educational administration.
- Superior communication skills that will be used to work within the athletic department as well as with all levels of the Canisius High School organization.
- Demonstrated ability to manage an irregular work schedule that includes nights, and weekends as well as travel.
- An understanding of the work of Jesuit education and spirituality.

Leadership style and personal qualities

- An evenhanded, trustworthy and confident leader who sets high standards, inspires excellent performance and requires accountability from coaches, staff and students.
- A talented administrator who is able to plan effectively, make sound decisions and implement processes that work.
- A resilient and flexible multitasker who is undaunted by complexity and able to prioritize.
- A culturally sensitive individual who is committed to supporting diversity, equity and inclusion.
- A person of faith.

Application requirements

Candidates should submit – as soon as possible and no later than July 6, 2026 – an application package including the following:

- A cover letter indicating why they are particularly interested in and qualified for the position
- A current résumé
- The names, email addresses and telephone numbers of three references (we will obtain permission from candidates before contacting references)

Anticipated Search Calendar

Application deadline: July 6.

Interviews: Through July 24.

Starting Date: Aug. 3, 2026

Application materials should be emailed to Stefanie Adams, Assistant to the Principal, at adams@canisiushigh.org